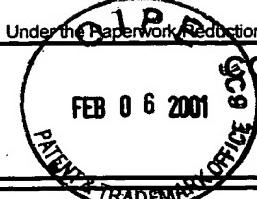


02-08-01 C. Grace PTO/SB/29(10-00)
#16110

Approved for use through 10/31/2002, OMB 0651-0032

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



CONTINUED PROSECUTION APPLICATION (CPA) REQUEST TRANSMITTAL

Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing.

(Only for Continuation or Divisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(d))

CHECK BOX, if applicable:
DUPLICATE

Address to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box CPA
Washington, DC 20231

Attorney Docket No.
of Prior Application

P00798US9

First Named Inventor

T. W. Hutchens

Examiner Name

L. Alexander

Group Art Unit

1743

Express Mail Label No.

EH459274354US

This is a request for a continuation or divisional application under 37 CFR 1.53(d),
(continued prosecution application (CPA)) of prior application number 09/123,253
filed on July 27, 1998, entitled

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DESORPTION AND IONIZATION OF ANALYTES

NOTES

FILING QUALIFICATIONS: The prior application identified above must be a nonprovisional application that is either: (1) complete as defined by 37 CFR 1.51 (b), or (2) the national stage of an international application in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371. Effective May 29, 2000, a CPA may only be filed in a utility or a plant application if the prior nonprovisional application was filed before May 29, 2000. A CPA may be filed in a design application regardless of the filing date of the prior application. See "Request for Continued Examination Practice Changes to and Provisional Application Practice, "Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office (Apr. 11, 2000).

C-I-P NOT PERMITTED: A continuation-in-part application cannot be filed as a CPA under 37 CFR 1.53 (d), but must be filed under 37 CFR 1.53(b).

EXPRESS ABANDONMENT OF PRIOR APPLICATION: The filing of this CPA is a request to expressly abandon the prior application as of the filing date of the request for a CPA. 37 CFR 1.53(b) must be used to file a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part of an application that is not to be abandoned.

ACCESS TO PRIOR APPLICATION: The filing of this CPA will be construed to include a waiver of confidentiality by the applicant under 35 U.S.C. 122 to the extent that any member of the public who is entitled under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.14 to access to, copies of, or information concerning, the prior application may be given similar access to, copies of, or similar information concerning, the other application or applications in the file jacket.

35 U.S.C. 120 STATEMENT: In a CPA, no reference to the prior application is needed in the first sentence of the specification and none should be submitted. If a sentence referencing the prior application is submitted, it will not be entered. A request for a CPA is the specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 and to every application assigned the application number identified in such request, 37 CFR 1.78(a).

1. Enter the unentered amendment previously filed on _____ under 37 CFR 1.116 in the prior nonprovisional application.
2. A preliminary amendment is enclosed.
3. This application is filed by fewer than all the inventors named in the prior application, 37 CFR 1.53(d)(4).
 - a. DELETE the following inventor(s) named in the prior nonprovisional application:

b. The inventor(s) to be deleted are set forth on a separate sheet attached hereto.
4. A new power of attorney or authorization of agent (PTO/SB/81) is enclosed.
5. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is enclosed:
 - a. PTO-1449
 - b. Copies of IDS Citations

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700
FEB 11 2001
RECEIVED

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

| CLAIM | (1) FOR | (2) NUMBER FILED | (3) NUMBER EXTRA | (4) RATE | (5) CALCULATIONS |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| | TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(c) or (j)) | - 20* | = | x \$ | \$ |
| | INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(b) or (i)) | - 3** | = | x \$ | = |
| | MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS (if applicable) 37 CFR 1.16(d)) | | | + \$ | = |
| | | | | BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16) | 710.00 |
| | | | | Total of above Calculations = | 710.00 |
| | Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity (Note 37 CFR 1.27). | | | | |
| | * Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent. ** Reissue independent claims over original patent. | | | TOTAL = | \$ 710.00 |

6. Small entity status: Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
7. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge the following fees to Deposit Account No. 06-2375:

- a. Fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.
- b. Fees required under 37 CFR 1.17.
- c. Fees required under 37 CFR 1.18.

8. A check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

9. Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

10. Applicant requests suspension of action under 37 CFR 1.103(b) for a period of _____ months (not to exceed 3 months) and the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) is enclosed.

11. New Attorney Docket Number, if desired

[Prior application Attorney Docket Number will carryover to this CPA unless a new Attorney Docket Number has been provided herein.]

12. a. Receipt For Facsimile Transmitted CPA (PTO/SB/29A)

- b. Return Receipt Postcard (Should be specifically itemized, See MPEP 503)

13. Other:

NOTE:

The prior application's correspondence address will carryover to this CPA unless a new correspondence address is provided below.

14. NEW CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer Number or Bar Code Label

26271

or

 New correspondence address below

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Name | FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.P. Melissa W. Acosta | | |
| Address | 1301 McKinney, Suite 5100 | | |
| City | Houston | State | Texas |
| Country | | Telephone | (713) 651-5151 |
| | | Zip Code | 77010-3095 |
| | | Fax | (713) 651-5246 |

15. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIREDName (Print/Type) Melissa W. AcostaSignature Melissa W. AcostaRegistration No. (Attorney/Agent) 45,872Date February 6, 2001**Continued Pursuit Application (CPA) Request Transmittal**

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EH459274354US, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below. Dated: February 6, 2001 Signature: Melissa W. Acosta (Melissa W. Acosta)